



Maryland Green Registry MEMBER

The Maryland Green Registry promotes and recognizes sustainable practices at organizations of all types and sizes. Members agree to share at least five environmental practices and one measurable result while striving to continually improve their environmental performance.

Brookside Gardens

1800 Glenallan Avenue

Wheaton, MD 20902

301-962-1402

www.brooksidegardens.org

Public Garden

Member since October 2009

Management and Leadership



Environmental Team

The Brookside Gardens Green Committee is comprised of at least one staff member from each section within the Gardens (12 members total). The mission of the committee is to work toward making the Gardens as sustainable as possible while continuing to serve our customers with high quality programming and beautiful gardens. The committee meets on a quarterly basis.



Environmentally Preferable Procurement

Brookside Gardens tries to give preference to vendors that have sustainable practices. We are working toward following the Environmental Protection Agency's Environmentally Preferred Purchasing (EPP) policies and the California Preferred Purchasing Manual. As we work toward LEED-EB certification, we are developing our own internal sustainable purchasing policy.



Environmentally Preferable Products and Services

Brookside Gardens provides educational programming that offers valuable information to the public on sustainable practices both in the landscape and the home. We also strive to make a good example to our visitors by using green cleaning products, taking energy saving measures (use of CFLs, efficient hand driers, etc.), use of compostable tableware at events, low VOC paint, recycled carpet, among others. As we work toward LEED-EB certification, we strive to use the most sustainable products and materials in all construction and renovation projects.



Environmental Restoration or Community Environmental Projects

Brookside Gardens' Green Matters Symposium is an annual event that provides to the community important information on a variety of environmental and sustainable topics. Speakers of regional and national repute present to our audience. We have also installed a demonstration rain garden, providing for the public an example of successful and attractive stormwater management. Our Green Thumbs Up interpretive panels highlight sustainable products and practices throughout the Gardens, explaining their benefits to the environment.

Waste



Recycling

Brookside Gardens has an extensive recycling program, the most successful segment of which is our composting program. All garden wastes are composted, and then used in the Gardens. Tree limbs and stumps are chipped and used on Gardens paths. We also recycle paper, cardboard, plastic, glass, aluminum, batteries and scrap metal. Most plant containers are cleaned and re-used on-site. Excess plant containers that are eligible are recycled. We make every effort to recycle electronic equipment that is no longer of use to the organization.



Hazardous Waste/Toxic Use Reduction

Brookside Gardens makes extensive use of IPM (Integrated Pest Management) to minimize pesticide use in the gardens and greenhouses. In the greenhouses alone, pesticide use has decreased by 81% since 1990 (measuring total gallons of spray applied in 1990 as compared to 2008). Spill containment kits are available on-site. In an effort to improve indoor air quality for our visitors and staff, we use all green cleaning products. In the past, our Live Butterfly Exhibit was required to treat all butterfly waste with chlorine bleach to kill any pathogens that might be present; we no longer use bleach (a toxic chemical) for this purpose, but utilize a sub-zero freezer, instead.

Energy



Energy Efficiency

Brookside Gardens is in the process of replacing incandescent light bulbs with CFLs throughout our facilities. For our Garden of Lights show, 60% of the lights used in the show are LED (saving 60-70% energy as compared to

incandescent lights used in the past). We continue to replace older incandescent lights in the light show with LEDs. Energy efficient hand driers are used in our Visitors Center restrooms. As appliances and machines are replaced, we opt for Energy Star rated models.

Transportation

☒ **Fleet Vehicles**

Brookside Gardens has purchased four electric garden carts replacing gas-powered carts and reducing fuel consumption and air pollution in the Gardens. Staff makes every effort to drive the most efficient vehicle when traveling outside the Gardens. We will continue to replace gas-powered garden vehicles with electric, as budget allows.

Water

☒ **Water Conservation**

Brookside Gardens has installed a 620-gallon cistern to collect rainwater from part of the Conservatory roof; this water is used to water plants in containers outside the Conservatory, reducing the amount of potable water that might otherwise be used. A new, efficient irrigation system has been installed throughout the Gardens, delivering water in a very efficient manner. This is a "smart" system, able override a scheduled watering if rainwater is detected.

☒ **Stormwater Management and Site Design**

Brookside Gardens has installed a rain garden in a section of the garden where a great deal of rainwater runoff caused problems with erosion and pollution in the stream surrounding the property. The rain garden captures rainwater and filters it through the soil. Pervious paving surrounding the rain garden also captures rainwater and keeps it on site. Phase I of Brookside Gardens' Master Plan is scheduled to break ground in 2014. The design of this project includes extensive use of pervious paving and stormwater retention gardens.

Profile Updated November 2011



Help build a greener, more sustainable Maryland through voluntary practices that reduce environmental impacts and save money.

Learn more at www.green.maryland.gov/registry

